

U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Western District of New York

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PRESS RELEASE

April 8, 2004

RE: UNITED STATES v. TIMOTHY FISHER

United States Attorney Michael A. Battle announced today that on April 8, 2004, Timothy Fischer, age 26, of Angola, New York, pled guilty before the Hon. William M. Skretny, United States District Court Judge, to violations of federal law, specifically a two-count Information charging (1) the use of an interstate communication facility to extort money from an individual through the use of threats to injure a person, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 875(b), which carries a maximum sentence of imprisonment of twenty years and (2) use and carrying of a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(c), which carries a minimum term of imprisonment of at least five years and up to life. Sentencing is presently scheduled for August 11, 2004.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Timothy C. Lynch, who handled the prosecution of the case, stated that during the evening hours of September 18, 2003, Timothy Fischer participated in the kidnaping of Abdul Almontaser. Timothy Fischer thereafter held Almontaser against his will into the morning hours of September 19, 2003, while at the same time using a

telephone to communicate ransom demands to Sameer Taher in exchange for the safe return of Almontaser. During the course of and in relation to the kidnaping and extortion, a Remington shotgun was used and carried.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Lynch stated that the prosecution of the remaining defendant continues. Mr. Battle stated, however, that today's guilty plea should not be taken in any way as evidence of the guilt of the other defendant.

Timothy Fischer's guilty pleas were the culmination of an investigation on the part of Federal Bureau of Investigation, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Peter Ahearn, the Career Criminal Task Force, the City of Lackawanna Police Department, under the direction of Police Chief Dennis O'Hara, the Town of Hamburg Police Department, under the direction of Police Chief Joseph Coggins, and the Buffalo Police Department, under the direction of Police Commissioner Rocco Diina.

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